

large conference center in the facility on the third floor of the building at the corner of Third Street and St. Lawrence Avenue.

If built as expected, the facility would house an area large enough for conventions, and community and non-profit events, as well as corporate gatherings. In all, the space would be large enough to seat 300 people.

Not only would the space be large, it would come with a view, as the windows of the third-floor banquet facility would overlook the Rock River. Hendricks is working with Jim Andrews, marketing director for Café Belwah, and Anne Goodwin of Goodwin Associates on the project.

A River With A View

While working on the inside of buildings, the Hendrickses are concerned with restoring the facade of the buildings they purchase as well. They have grand plans for the east side of the former Beloit Corp. facility, including a six-photograph mural that would face the Rock River (below).

The couple collected old photographs of Beloit Corp. employees and interior shots of the manufacturing facility from



former Beloit Corp. workers and the Beloit Historical Society, then hired graphic designer Jeff Larson of the Larson Group of Rockford to make the project a reality. Their goal was to capture the history of Beloit Iron Works, the forerunner to Beloit Corp., in a mural for all to enjoy.

Plans include reproducing six massive photographs and affixing the photos on flexible materials. Once framed, the photos will be hung on the outer east wall of the Beloit Corp. site, facing the Rock River. People at the Beloit Inn and Café Belwah, as well as those using the recreation path along the river, should be able to see the murals.

By purchasing the properties, the Hendrickses take on the responsibility for the rehabilitation of the buildings. However, the federal government helped them out earlier this year with a \$250,000 Housing and Urban Development grant. The money, awarded by Senator Herb Kohl, was earmarked for helping pay for rehabbing the south end of the Beloit Corp. campus.

A Gull Plate

Ken and Diane Hendricks have been purchasing and rehabbing rundown properties in Beloit for a number of years. Their biggest project includes the building that houses ABC Supply Inc. on Riverside Drive. Known to some as "the sawtooth building," today the structure is a prime example of rehabilitation of not only a building, but also an entire campus.

The couple continues to refurbish the area east of Riverside Drive. Six industrial buildings east of ABC's main offices have been renovated and are filling with tenants. The six buildings include 450,000 total square feet and are still intended for industrial use.



Originally part of Fairbanks Morse Company, the Hendrickses bought the buildings in 1997. Today, the Hendrickses own more than 3 million square feet of manufacturing and office space in Beloit and just about as many ideas for change to match ... all in the interest of improving our community and bringing jobs for the people who live here.

